WHO CARES ABOUT LITTER?

Taxpayers care about litter.

About $14 million of your tax dollars were spent cleaning up litter across Kentucky in 2005.

That’s plus countless hours and supplies donated by volunteers who work to help keep our communities clean.

Daviess County Solid Waste Management
7772 KY Highway 815
Owensboro, KY 42301

An ugly habit.
DOES LITTER HAVE A REAL IMPACT?

The Urban Litter Forum,* a partnership between the U.S. Conference of Mayors and Keep America Beautiful, identified the following impacts of litter:

Litter repels economic development, investment, and location of businesses.

It decreases property values and increases urban decay.

Urban blight and litter result in decreased tourism in communities.

Revenue declines for littered business districts.

Related crime activities are more likely to occur in blighted areas (drug deals, prostitution, gang violence, loitering, vandalism, etc.).

DID YOU KNOW?

Litter won’t just go away in a few days. Paper takes 2-4 weeks to break down, while a tin can lasts 100 years, a glass bottle will hang around indefinitely and the cellulose acetate in cigarette filters never completely decomposes.

It is illegal to litter. The Daviess County Sheriff has committed to ticketing people who throw their trash on the ground, even if it is something small like a cigarette butt.

Vermin and disease are rife in places with high amounts of litter. Open containers such as paper cups or beverage cans can hold rainwater, providing breeding locations for mosquitoes which have been known to spread diseases like the West Nile Virus. Litter is also a road hazard, occasionally contributing to automobile accidents.*

YOU CAN HELP

Never litter.

Store trash in bags or pockets until you find a garbage can.

Have the courage to talk to people about not littering.

Volunteer to clean up litter.

*The Urban Litter Forum Hollywood, Florida January 11-12, 1999

*Wikipedia